



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

24 October 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 20, 2005

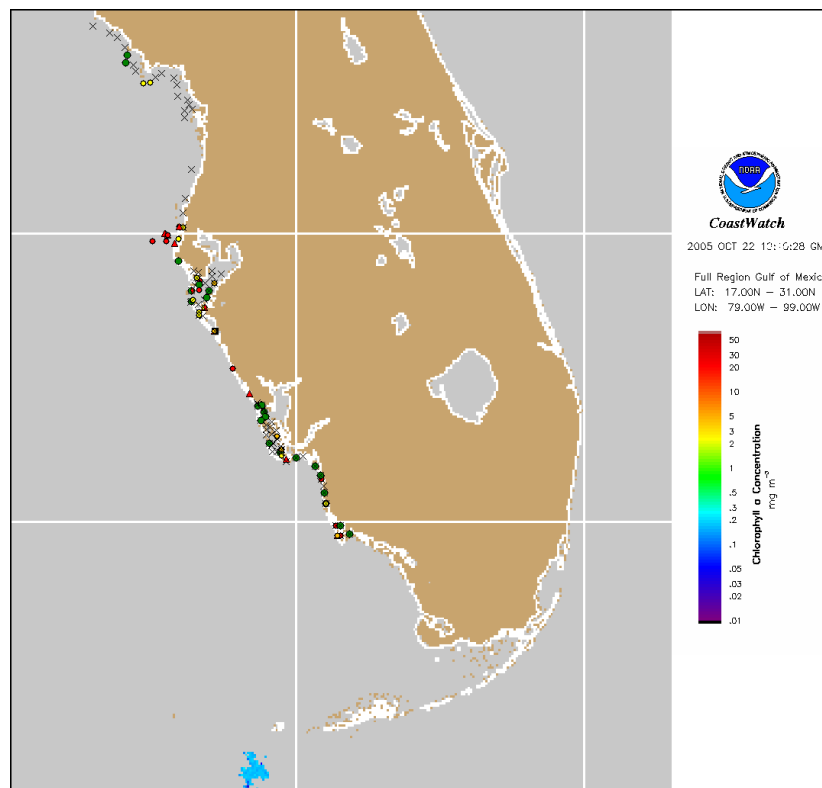
Conditions: Harmful algal blooms have been identified in Florida from Pinellas to Collier County, Dixie to Levy County, and in patches along Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Patchy very low impacts are possible from Pinellas to Sarasota County and from Dixie to Levy today through Thursday; with slight possibility for low impacts on Tuesday. Patchy low to moderate impacts are expected from Wakulla to Okaloosa County, FL and Baldwin to Mobile County, AL today through Thursday. Dead fish have been reported in Bay, Walton and Charlotte Counties over the last few days. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

Analysis: The harmful algal bloom continues to dissipate along the SW Florida coastline, with *Karenia* concentrations still present in and around Tampa Bay, Venice Pier, Marco Island and offshore of Clearwater (FWRI, Oct 17-19). The bloom is considerably mixed in the southernmost portions. Present satellite imagery is obscured by Hurricane Wilma. Results of a wind transport model indicate possible bloom movement 35-55km southward since October 20. No recent samples have been reported from Levy to Dixie Counties. Sampling is recommended. Resuspension and reports of discolored water along the coast are likely due to Hurricane Rita. Persistent northerlies will minimize coastal impacts through Thursday, with a slightly greater possibility for respiratory irritation and/or dead fish appearance on Tuesday. Offshore and southward transport is possible.

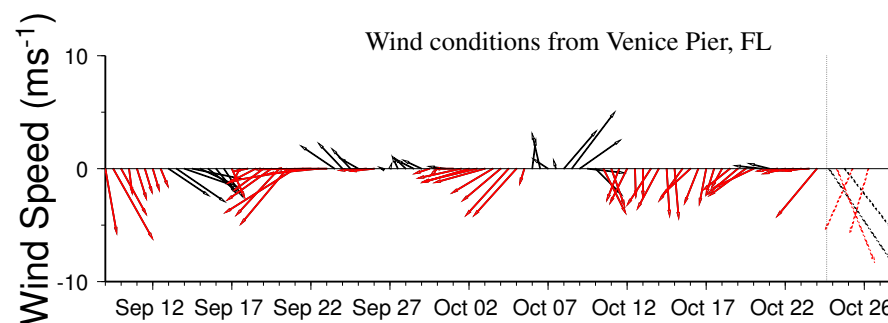
~Fisher, Bronder

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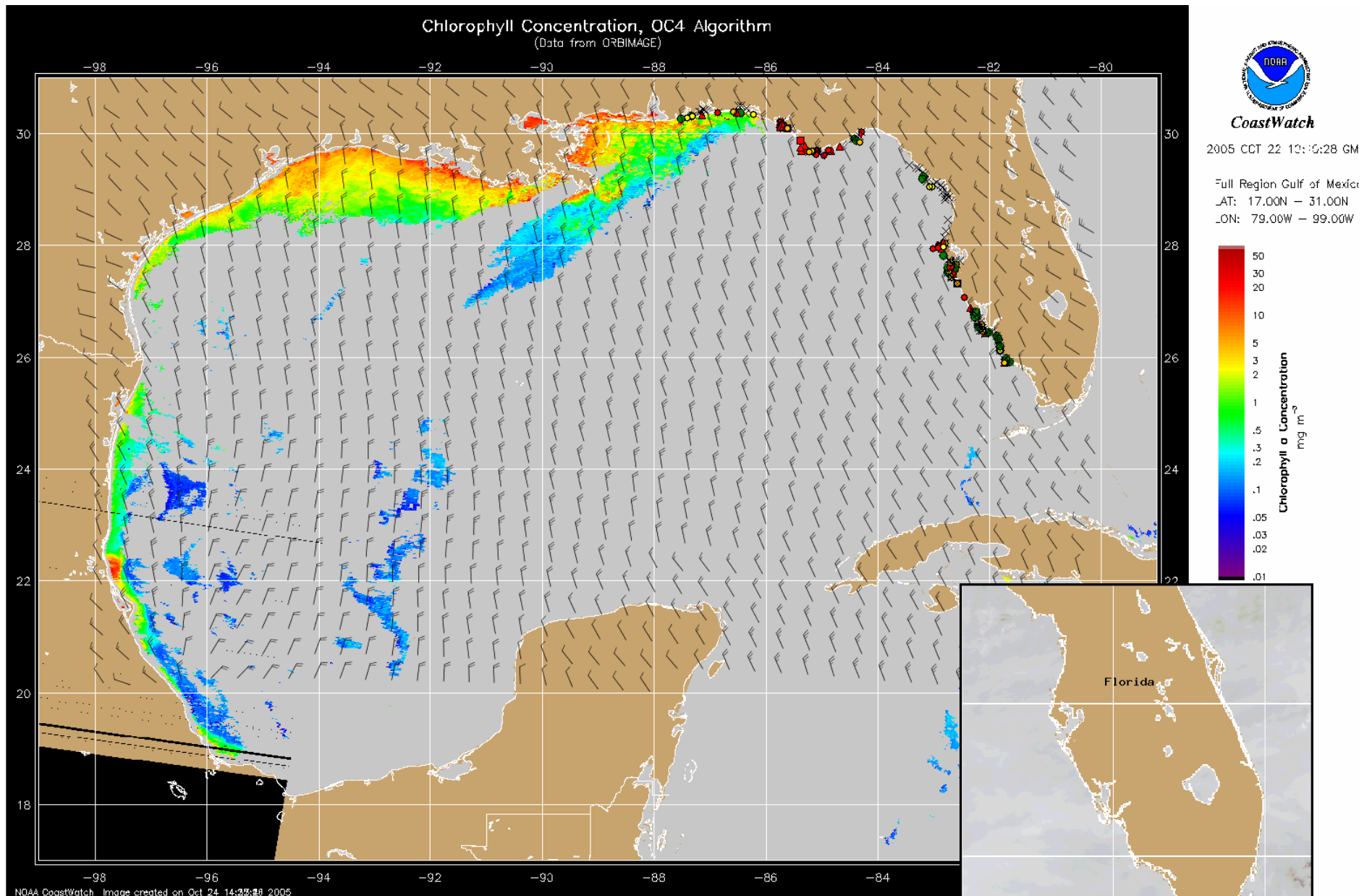


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from October 19, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Strong (20-30kts, 10-15m/s) northerly to northwesterly winds through Tuesday night will shift northeasterly Wednesday into Thursday. Hurricane force variable winds expected today from Bonita Beach southward.



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for October 25, 2005 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from October 19, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)

